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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,717	09/12/2003	Steven S. Homer	200312716-1	8243

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/661,717

Applicant(s)

HOMER ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/22/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0090742 to Son et al. ("Son" hereinafter). Referring to claim 1, Son discloses a computing system (400) comprising a docking station (570) having a base (500), a carrier (410) separate from the base, and a nonlinear rigid mounting arm (600) mechanically connecting the base to the carrier (see Figs. 15-16A), wherein the mounting arm has a first end that pivotally connects to the base and a second end that pivotally connects to the carrier (see pg., 7, para. 0108, lines 7-18), an electronic display (700) removably connectable to the carrier, and a keyboard (300) in communication with the display (see pg. 7, para. 0106, lines 1-4).

Referring to claim 2, Son discloses a computing system, wherein the first end pivots about the base with a first rotational force, the second end pivots about the carrier with a second rotational force, and wherein the first rotation force is inherently greater than the second rotational force, since a greater force is required to maintain stability about the base axis of rotation than is require to maintain stability about the display axis of rotation.

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Referring to claims 3-5, Son discloses a computing system, wherein the mounting arm has an S shape in side view, is a single integrally formed member, and has an elongated configuration with a generally curved portion and a generally straight portion, respectively (see Figs. 15 and 16A).

Referring to claim 7, Son discloses a computing system, wherein the display (700), while connected to the carrier, is movable between at least four different positions comprising a horizontal landscape position, a horizontal portrait position, an upright landscape position, and an upright portrait position. See pg. 11, para. 0139.

Referring to claim 8, Son discloses a portable computer comprising a base (500) inherently having a central processing unit and memory (see pg. 7, para. 0108), a display (700) having a screen, wherein the display is movable between a horizontal position with respect to the base and a vertical position with respect to the base (see pg. 11, para. 0139, lines 5-8), and an elongated mounting arm (600) mechanically and electrically coupling the display to the base, wherein the mounting arm has two different portions with at least one portion being curved. See Figs. 15-16A and pg. 7, para. 0107.

Referring to claims 9 and 10, Fig. 16A of Son shows a portable computer, wherein the two different portions (i.e., of the mounting arm 600) are rigidly and fixedly connected together and wherein at least one portion is generally straight, and wherein the mounting arm rotationally connects at a first end to the base and rotationally connects at a second end to the display.

Referring to claim 11, Son discloses a portable computer, wherein the base (500) further comprises a stop mechanism (535) to limit movement of the mounting arm about the base while the display is in the vertical position. See 16A and the corresponding specification.

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Referring to claim 12, Son discloses a portable computer wherein the display (700) is adapted to function as a notepad while in the horizontal position (see Fig. 16B) and a view screen while in the vertical position (see pg. 1, para. 0017).

Referring to claim 13, Son discloses the method as claimed. See Figs. 15 and 16A, as well as pg. 11, para. 0139.

Referring to claim 18, Son discloses a computing system comprising a docking station (570) comprising a base (500) housing electronic components (see pg. 7, para. 0108), a carrier (410), and means (600) for connecting the base to the carrier, a display (700) inherently housing electronic components and mechanically connected to the carrier and electrically coupled to the base through the means for connecting (see pg. 7, para. 0107), and means (457/458a) for positioning the display above the base such that a center of gravity of the display is between two different and parallel axes that pass through two different rotational locations and that are normal to a support surface supporting the base (see pg. 9, para. 0121, lines 30-37 and para. 0124).

Referring to claim 19, Son discloses a computing system, wherein the means (600) for connecting provides a curved mechanical connection between the base and the carrier (see Fig. 16A).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Son.

Referring to claim 14, Son discloses the method as claimed, except for specifically comprising forming an angle with a front surface of the display relative to a normal axis with the base, the angle being between 10 degrees and 40 degrees. As stated in MPEP 2144.05, “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by experimentation. It would have been obvious to form an angle with a front surface of the display of Son relative to a normal axis with the base as recited in the claims, since the angle represents a workable range of a variable that might be characterized as routine experimentation and involves only routine skill in the art.

Referring to claim 15, Son discloses the method as claimed, further comprising adjusting the display to a horizontal position so the display rests on a support surface, and forming triangular contact locations (426/427) with the display and support surface. See Figs. 16A, 16B and 18.

Referring to claims 16 and 17, Son discloses the method as claimed. See Figs. 16A and 16B, which show first (426) and second (427) contact locations on the corner of the display and a third contact location (not numbered) on both the mounting arm (600) and the base (500).

Claims 6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Son in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0047115 to Helot et al. Referring to claim 6, Son discloses the computing system as claimed, except for a hollow mounting arm. Herlot et al. disclose a display unit (10) having a hollow mounting arm (19) coupling the base to the display when the display is connected to a carrier (17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the computing system of

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Son to include a hollow mounting arm, as taught by Herlot et al. to provide cable management for the device of Son

Referring to claim 20, Son in view of Herlot et al. disclose the computing system, wherein the means for connecting also provides a straight mechanical connection (19) for supporting the display. See Fig. 1 of Herlot et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the computing system of Son to include a straight mechanical connection for supporting the display, as taught by Herlot et al. since the straight connection of Herlot et al. may reduce production costs and the overall maintenance requirements for the system of Son.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2002/0145847 to Crosby.

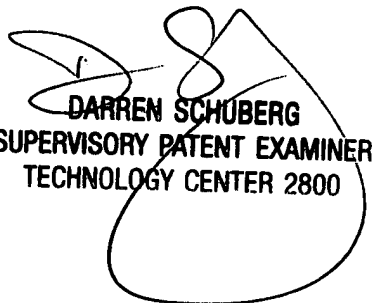
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 14, 2004
aqe


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